



Yemen

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

People in need of humanitarian assistance:

over 14.7 million

Displaced populations:

- **248 298** refugees
- **61 224** newly arriving migrants and asylum seekers (Jan – Sept 2014)
- **334 037** (IDPs)
- **215 381** returnees

(Source: UNOCHA, UNHCR)

Food insecure population:

10.6 million

Total EU humanitarian assistance to Yemen in 2014 (Commission and Member States):

€99.14 million including ECHO funds of **€ 33 million**



Key messages

- Humanitarian efforts in Yemen must focus on **emergency life-saving aid**, as well as **advocacy for a coordinated response to needs**.
- Assessing humanitarian needs and providing aid to people in need is extremely difficult given the **security situation** and large numbers of vulnerable people are isolated from essential humanitarian aid. Sustained efforts to negotiate **neutral access** for humanitarian partners are needed.
- A **rapidly changing political environment** and new areas of conflict are likely to increase humanitarian needs, as well as small scale displacement in several governorates.
- **Coordination** among humanitarian actors and **effectiveness** of actions are crucial to reduce the **high levels of acute malnutrition** and facilitate access to areas of conflict where humanitarian assistance is needed the most.

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Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

Yemen is the **poorest country in the Arab Peninsula**. Over 47 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line on **less than €2 a day**. It has the world's **third highest rate of malnutrition**. It is estimated that 840 000 children under the age of five are acutely malnourished and in need of direct nutritional support. Poverty combined with conflict, refugee and migrant flows and rising food prices, have aggravated an already serious humanitarian crisis over the past years.

Assessing humanitarian needs and bringing aid to those who need it is extremely difficult in Yemen as a **worsening security situation means that aid workers struggle to reach many areas**. This leaves large numbers of vulnerable people isolated from essential humanitarian aid.

Recurring **armed clashes** which took place in the north between 2004 and 2011 resulted in the **long-term displacement** of thousands of people. Fighting in the south of Yemen also displaced over 162 000 people in recent years. With the exception of around 7 000, the majority have returned home but still struggle with difficult living conditions where reconstruction has not yet started, a lack of basic services and the threat of landmines. The current situation of political instability is likely to lead to an expansion of conflict affected areas with new displacements.

Major needs and related problems

Malnutrition and food insecurity

Access to nutritious food is vital to vulnerable families with children at risk of malnutrition. An estimated 840 000 girls and boys (6-59 months old) will be acutely malnourished in 2015, out of which approximately 280 000 severely malnourished. This adds to an estimated 2.2 million children in the country chronically malnourished (stunted).

Being able to **afford nutritious food is a major challenge** for 10.6 million Yemenis. The underlying causes of food insecurity are likely to persist in the medium and long term. Little income opportunities and high levels of indebtedness, compounded by competition over limited resources and a volatile political environment may further deteriorate the living conditions of most vulnerable households.

Influx of migrants and refugees

Yemen is also directly affected by the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. More than 248 000 refugees, mostly from Somalia, are stranded in the country and live in precarious conditions either in Kharaz camp (the only refugee camp) or in poor urban areas. Yemen also hosts about one million Ethiopian migrants, according to Government estimates. Many migrants try to cross over the borders, mainly into Saudi Arabia in search of work, but due to strict border controls very few actually make it. They find themselves stranded in Yemen with no resources and without protection. **UNOCHA estimates that almost one million refugees and migrants in Yemen altogether are in need of humanitarian support.**

The number of new arrivals from the Horn of Africa has seen an unprecedented increase in 2014, with 61 224 asylum seekers and migrants arriving in Yemen between January and September 2014, according to UNHCR. **The number of fatal incidents in the Gulf of Aden has dramatically risen.** Since January 2014, 215 people died while trying to reach the Yemeni coastline, exceeding the total of the last three years combined.



The expulsion of Yemeni workers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) continues. According to IOM, 580 939 workers have been expelled since June 2013. Yemenis forced across the border are increasingly vulnerable, physically as well as psychologically. The loss of remittances due to their expulsion is likely to have a **severe negative impact on the lives of thousands of families**, unless the Government-run Social Welfare Fund is able to restructure and restart its disbursement of grants to the most vulnerable families.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

European Commission

- In 2014, the European Commission has allocated €33 million to assist populations across the country affected by acute malnutrition, conflict and forced displacement. The bulk of the funding is used for food as well as supplementary feeding for the growing number of extremely vulnerable families with small children that are at risk of becoming malnourished.
- The remaining funding goes towards providing water and sanitation, basic health care, shelter and basic household items for the affected communities, including those hosting uprooted people. A small portion of the Commission funding will be used to ensure monitoring of the rapidly evolving humanitarian situation and security, as well as coordination among humanitarian organisations and donors. Advocacy work, disseminating information about the principles of humanitarian aid (humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence) is also being conducted.

Member States

In 2014, the European Union Member States have allocated €66.14 million to cover humanitarian needs in Yemen.

Total EU funding (Member States and EC combined) for humanitarian assistance in Yemen in 2014 amounts to €99.14 million.

Outreach and coordination with humanitarian partners

The Humanitarian Country Team of Yemen presented the 2014 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) to donors in Geneva in early February. The plan requires less funding than in last year (\$592 million compared to \$706 million in 2013) and includes a strong call to address gender inequality in Yemen.

